to (d) Sir, a number of projects relating to geology, geophysics, remote sensing, paleoseismology and geodetic observations in the earthquake affected region have been aporoved. However, th3 science of earthquake prediction has not reached an operational stage anywhere in the world. The total cost of the approved projec s is close to Rs. 3 crores. The projects have been given to both experienced and young scientists depending upon their expertise and the merits of the proposals, as determined by the Expert Advisory Committee.

Expansion Plans for the Department of Space

5018. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in view of India's increasing and ambitious space programme, the Department of Space will be expanded;

(b) if so, what are the plans in this regard;

(c) whether any expert advice or consultancy is being sought for such expan^ sion progarmme; and

(d) whether the study by NASA of the USA has been made with reference to augmentation of India's Space Department ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Indian Space Programme, a self reliant programme, envisages development and operationalisation of space services in vital areas of national development such as communication, broadcasting, meteorology, education, disaster management, drought management and management of natural resources such as agricultural crops, forest, water, soils, minerals, fisheries etc., on a continued and enhanced h?.sis. Expansion in these services is olanned in the 1990—2000 Decade Profile of the Department of Space. Forth' coming launches of IRS 1C and INSAT 2C will augment the presently available services through the 'wo national satellite systems, Indian National Satellite (INSAT) System and Indian Remote Sensing Satellite (IRS) System. It is also planned to develop GRAMSAT, a satellite totally dedicated to rural development and eradication of illiteracy. Operationalisation of the launch vehicle. Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV), capable of launching IRS class satellite, is also planned. Realisation of the launch vehicle, Geo-synchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) for launch of INSAT class of satellites is also planned. Details in this regard are available in the Annual Report of the Department of Space.

(c) No, Sh.

(d) No, Sir.

Reducing Foreign Dependence in Space Programme

5019. SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have embarked on an ambitious space programme for attaining self sufficiency, both in space packages and high profile launching stations;

(b) if so, what is the ratio of indigenous-foreign import in our various systems at pesent;

(c) whether Government have any plan and schedule to reduce foreign import ratio in our system;

(d) if so, what are the core contents of these plans and schedules; and

(e) by when Government expect that there will be zero dependency on foreign imports in the system ?

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